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Dear Mr. Wallenberg:

Thank you for your letter of November 14 regarding the case of Anna Wallenberg and the plight of her husband, Arvid Wallenberg, and other prisoners in the Soviet Union.

According to information of this Bureau, in 1945, Anna Wallenberg was assigned to the Soviet Union in the capacity of a Swedish citizen. During World War II, she was interned in Sweden and was followed by the period of Soviet occupation. She was released to Sweden in 1945 by the Swedish Government. The Soviet Government in February 1946, when Mr. Wallenberg had been in a Soviet prison for some time, stated the fact that the Soviet Government was not in a position to release Mr. Wallenberg's case as a result of the subsequent occurrence, after the fact that several persons claimed to have seen his alive during his imprisonment. The Soviet Government has received no additional information.

Mr. Wallenberg's mother, Mrs. Emma Wallenberg, has continued to pursue the question of her son's release with the Swedish Government and the Swedish Red Cross. Since the Swedish Government and Red Cross are thoroughly familiar with Mr. Wallenberg's case, we believe that they are in the best position to make inquiries to the Soviet Government on the event that further representation would be helpful.

This Administration's position on fundamental human rights, including that of religious freedom, is well known. The Soviet authorities are aware of our human rights policy, as we have communicated our feelings to them on numerous occasions, both diplomatically and publicly.

During the recent series of trials of human rights activists we stressed that continuation of such harsh treatment would inevitably affect the climate of U.S.-Soviet relations. In addition, we took a number of actions designed to demonstrate our concern. These actions included cancellation of visits to the U.S.S.R. by high-level Administration officials, deferral of visits by Soviet officials to

Respectfully,
Jacob F. Javits,
United States Senator

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this country and review of our numerous exchange agreements with the USSR.

We are very concerned about the situation of dissidents persecuted in the Soviet Union. You may be assured that we will continue to do all we can to ease their plight.

In our efforts to promote respect for human rights, including freedom of religion, we are mindful of individuals such as Pastor Vin and his family, who have suffered for their advocacy of basic human rights.

Sincerely,

Ernest J. Bennett, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure

Correspondence Returned.

PA/PC/CH:SM/aufe/kim
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